



M J Tarsh

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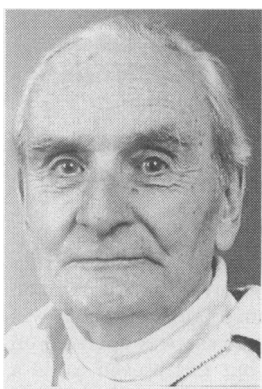
"Larger than life" is the description that comes to mind regarding Michael Tarsh. Physically tall and bulky, he was also expansive in personality, "up front" in his actions, and not one to suffer fools quietly.

On being appointed a consultant to the Salford hospitals he joined a comprehensive service, which I had been developing. For the next 22 years we had a happy and productive working partnership; he threw himself into the huge volume of clinical work with enormous enthusiasm. He was also in much demand for private practice, particularly forensic, establishing many links with the legal profession. His capacity for seeing patients was inexhaustible, and he absorbed much of the clinical load of our joint firm as I was increasingly drawn into outside activities. His particular interests were automatic behaviour, transsexualism, and post-traumatic states. He also worked for voluntary organisations, particularly as a consultant for an aftercare hostel.

Michael was unsympathetic to the changes in the NHS and social services during the 1980s and became superintendent of a private psychiatric hospital. But he found that he was not comfortable with private medical administration either and so moved into full time medicolegal practice.

Michael was a generous host, pleased to be able to show guests his unique collection of pig artefacts and wide representation of original art. Throughout his adult life he had struggled with weight problems, and he died of postoperative complications of an attempt to deal with this surgically. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, who is also a doctor; three children; and one grandchild.—HUGH FREEMAN

Michael Justin Tarsh, who was latterly in full time medicolegal practice, died 20 October aged 60. Born 1933; educated Clifton College and Queen's College, Oxford, and the London Hospital (MB, BCh 1957). Registrar in psychiatry at Long Grove Hospital, Epsom, Surrey; senior registrar at Sefton General Hospital, Liverpool. Consultant psychiatrist to the Salford hospitals 1966-88, then for a short time was superintendent of Bowden House Hospital, Harrow, Middlesex.



C R Lowe

C R LOWE CBE, PHD, MD, FRCP, FRCGP, FFCM

Ron Lowe devoted his professional life to bringing the population perspective to bear on medical education and practice. His early epidemiological work included studies of stillbirths, tuberculosis, and the accommodation needs of elderly people. One study showed that hypertension was part of a continuous distribution of blood pressure in the population at large. A large study in the steelworks of south Wales then put into clear perspective, for the first time, the relative contribution of industrial pollution to the aetiology of bronchitis. These two investigations had a worldwide influence on the management and prevention of hypertension and bronchitis. He was also one of the first researchers to show a significant association between maternal smoking and low birth weight.

Ron contributed much to the growth of academic public health and the teaching of epidemiology and statistics. *An Introduction to Social Medicine*, which he wrote with Thomas McKeown, remained a standard textbook for over 20 years. On his retirement he

chaired the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council and helped to shape government policy.

He combined a gentle disposition with the highest academic standards. Intellectual rigour, healthy scepticism, and the avoidance of self deception were the hallmarks of his scientific approach. But he was fun to work with: he had a dry and somewhat irreverent sense of humour and a fund of good stories, which he relished telling in the black country accent of his youth. A cultured man, he enjoyed music, English literature, travel, wine, and good food. His wife, Bobbie, survives him.—C J ROBERTS

Charles Ronald Lowe, professor of social and occupational medicine at University of Wales College of Medicine 1962-77, died 4 November aged 81. Born Wednesbury, Staffordshire, 30 January 1912; educated Dudley Grammar School, University of Birmingham Medical School (MB, ChB 1936). General practitioner in Birmingham 1937-42 and 1945-7; served in Royal Army Medical Corps in Middle East 1942-5. Lecturer and later reader in social medicine at University of Birmingham Medical School 1948-61. Medical adviser to General Electric Company, Birmingham, 1954-61; medical adviser to Department of Employment (Welsh Office) 1964-72; chairman of Industrial Injuries Advisory Council 1978-84. Awarded CBE 1982.

G E McVITIE MPS, MB, CHB

The son of a pharmacist, George McVitie entered the family business after leaving school and qualified in pharmacy and optics. His contact with patients kindled a desire to study medicine, and he and I met on our first day in the dissecting room at Edinburgh University. In the practical pharmacology class we had to learn the art of making pills. George could produce perfect specimens within a few minutes and was in great demand to refashion the misshapen efforts of his fellow students.

After working in Nigeria for 14 years he returned to his native Cumbria to become a general practitioner in Keswick. He suffered a severe blow in 1962 when his wife, Marjorie, whom he had married in 1937, died. The next year he married Dorothy, a family friend, and decided to retire.

They moved to Applethwaite, where they took pride in their garden and its adjacent wood; George became a skilled tree surgeon. His other chief recreation was travel, preferably by sea, and in later years he spent the winter in Tenerife. He attended every reunion of the 1936 graduates up to the 50th.

He survived several serious illnesses and suffered increasing ill health over the last few years, but his mind and memory remained alert. He is survived by Dorothy and his son by his first marriage, David, who is a consultant psychiatrist in Leeds.—J W RAE

George Elliot McVitie, a general practitioner in Keswick 1951-63, died 6 November aged 90. Born Maryport, Cumbria, 11 June 1903; studied medicine at Edinburgh University (MB, ChB 1936). Worked in colonial medical service in Nigeria 1937-51.

D R BODEY BM, BCH, DRCOG

Don Bodey initially intended to follow a career in paediatrics but became disillusioned with hospital life. A letter from a friend asked if he knew of a doctor who

would be interested in working in inner city Manchester, in partnership with a local Baptist church. This seemed to be a calling, and he moved to Manchester. He married Carol in the same year, 1967; they subsequently had three children.

Through the church Don became involved in the Hideaway Youth Project, which caters for the mainly black young people of Moss Side; he chaired its management committee for over 17 years. During the inner city riots of 1981 he found himself faced with evidence of excessive police brutality as people whom he knew arrived injured on his doorstep. He spoke out publicly about what he had seen and, as a result, had to endure hate mail and death threats.

He believed strongly in accepting people as they are, in being non-judgmental. The growing inequalities and injustices in Britain, and especially the changes in the NHS, affected him deeply, and he participated in several campaigns to fight injustice. He was a co-founder of, and chaired, the Campaign Against Poverty and was a leading supporter of the "Save Withington Hospital" campaign in south Manchester.

To seek relief from the stress of his life he walked in the hills, and it was on a walk in the lake district with his son and son in law that he slipped and fell, with fatal consequences.—SARA BODEY, CAROL BODEY

Donald Ralph Bodey, a general practitioner in Manchester since 1967, died 25 September. Born Oxford, 3 May 1940; studied medicine at Christchurch College, Oxford, and Oxford Medical School (BM, BCh 1964).



R G Taylor

R G TAYLOR

MBH, FRCS, FRCSI

Robert Taylor, who was affectionately known as RGT throughout the orthopaedic world, was renowned for his special skills in the operating theatre and for his inspired teaching of juniors and students. During the war he operated both under canvas and under fire on the beaches of Normandy, and it was there that he first gained his reputation as a surgeon. After being appointed assistant surgeon in orthopaedics in Oxford he worked closely with G R Girdlestone, the first Nuffield professor of orthopaedic surgery. Together they developed new operations for foot deformities and diseased hip joints. Robert Taylor made an important contribution to the development of elective orthopaedics in Oxford; throughout his working life being on call meant being at the scene of action.

RGT delighted in sharing his many interests, particularly his love of literature and of travel in France. He had a keen interest in other people and their families and a remarkable memory for names. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, whom he married in 1938, and by two daughters, Deborah and Sarah (who has also made medicine her career).—JOHN KENWRIGHT

Robert George Taylor, the senior consultant at the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and at the accident unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, until 1975, died 5 September. Born 1910; educated King's Hospital School, Dublin, and Trinity College Dublin (MB, BCh, BAO 1933). Trained in orthopaedics at Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore. Orthopaedic chief assistant at Royal Infirmary, Sheffield. Served in Royal Army Medical Corps 1939-45. Appointed consultant at Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and in accident service 1946.

Mervyn Jeffrey Ingram, MB, BCHIR, who had been a general practitioner in Langport, Somerset, for many years, died on 8 November. Born in 1909, he studied medicine at Trinity College, Cambridge, and St George's Hospital, London. Soon after qualifying MRCS, LRCP in 1933, and after marriage, he joined

the practice in Langport. He remained there, with a break for war service, until his retirement in 1973; after that he continued to do locums in the practice for several years. During the war he served in the Royal Army Medical Corps, being attached first to the 1st Field Regiment (Royal Artillery) and then to the airborne division. He was in north Africa and Italy for a short period, but by the time of the operation in Arnhem he was serving in England. Mervyn was a quiet man. His great love was country pursuits: shooting (especially wildfowling), fishing, and (while he was at university and after his retirement) golf. He continued to pursue all of these until shortly before his death.—C W M INGRAM

Frederick Widdowfield Marshall, MD, formerly a general practitioner in Lichfield, died on 8 October, three days after his 90th birthday. Born on 5 October 1903, Eric studied medicine at Durham University, graduating MB, BS in 1924. He went to Lichfield in 1926 and remained there for the rest of his life. Encouraged in his aptitude for surgery, in the early 1930s he helped to plan the Victoria Hospital in Lichfield—a thriving general practitioner hospital to this day. He operated regularly there on both his own patients and those of his colleagues and was also a civilian surgical specialist at Whittington Barracks for many years. In the '50s he helped to plan a group practice centre, which became one of the first in Britain and built up a good reputation for training. He also served on Birmingham Regional Hospital Board. He and his wife, Margaret, lived in a house with a large, beautiful garden and were generous hosts. Margaret died in 1991; Eric is survived by his daughter and son and by three grandchildren.—DERYCK WHITNEY

Eric Mark Horowitz, FRCP, who latterly practised in London, died on 9 October of severe atherosclerosis and myocardial ischaemia; he was 83. He was born in 1910 in Vienna and studied medicine there, qualifying MD in 1934. After spending some time in east Africa he returned to Vienna in 1938 on the day that Hitler annexed Austria. He and his fiancée came to London, where they married, and he then studied for the LRCP&Sed, LRFPSGlas. In 1940 he and his wife and mother in law went to east Africa, where he was appointed medical officer in charge of the Native Hospital in Kajiado, Kenya. After naturalisation as a British citizen in 1944 he moved to Nairobi, entered private practice, and became a physician to the Princess Elizabeth Hospital. In 1960 he was chairman and provost of the BMA's branch in Kenya. He returned to London in 1963 and practised there for 20 years. He was a member of the Hunterian Society, the Savage Club, and several masonic lodges. He is survived by a daughter (me) and two grandsons.—J HOLT

Rachel Elizabeth Mallorie (née Hunt), BSC, MB, CHB, who had been a community paediatrician in Manchester, died on 20 October. She was 34. She graduated from the University of Manchester in 1985 and started out on a career in hospital paediatrics. After the birth of our first daughter, Amy, she went on to do community paediatrics part time. Our son, Peter, was born in 1991. Shortly afterwards she was operated on for a pancreatic pseudocyst, but this proved to be a carcinoma. The prognosis was good and Rachel was back at work for a short while. Genevieve was born in January last year. In April malignant ascites and spread of the tumour were apparent. But after three unsuccessful courses of chemotherapy Rachel completed a planned move with her family to a barn they had been converting near Warwick, where she had intended to work. She had great inner strength and tenacity.—JOHN MALLORIE